

MANOLIS et al.
Application No.: 09/450,804
Page 2

PATENT

prints, expected delivery date data, delivery option data designating the way of delivery, and user ID data for identifying the order sender. Then an order receiver or a particular photofinisher is designated. The processed digital image data and the print order data are sent to the designated photofinisher for printing.

Enomoto requires a user to operate a computer to perform the tasks of editing and ordering prints as follows:

Now the operation of the above embodiment will be described with reference to FIG. 3. The user 10 gets the list of photofinishers 25 on-line through the network 23 such as the Internet. The list 25 is obtainable by use of data communication software attached to the personal computer 11. Next, the user 10 selects the best photofinisher 12 from the list 25 taking into account which store is the nearest, what kind of print format is expected, how much the charge for print is, and what kind of delivery is possible, etc., and then taps into the Web site of the selected photofinisher 12 to connect to the data base 24 on the photofinisher side 12.

Upon user's request for downloading sent from the connected personal computer 11 on the user side 10, the work station 13 of the photofinisher 12 sends out the image processing-ordering software to the personal computer 11 of the user side 10. The user 10 extracts the downloaded image processing-ordering software and installs it in the personal computer 11. If the installation is accomplished normally, a user registration menu appears, which helps the user register for the print order.

In this user registration processing, the work station 13 publishes a user ID number and a password for the user 10. After that, the work station 13 can receive a print order just by checking these user ID number and password.

Next, the user 10 takes in the image data for print and carries out the image processing by using the image processing-ordering software. The image data is input into the personal computer 11 by the scanner 20, digital still camera and digital video camera without illustration. In addition, television images and video tape recorder images are input through a video capture board. Moreover, the image from the network 23 such as the Internet may be taken in as image data for print, if it is allowed to be printed.

The image data taken in is processed by the image processing-ordering software. Among the image processing techniques, for instance, there are gamma-correction, matrix correction, illustration-letter composition, magnification/reduction processing, trimming and image composition. After the image processing is complete, the processed image data is compressed, for example, by JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) compression. The compressed image data is written in the fixed area of RAM of the personal computer 10. Not only JPEG, but also other well-known type data compression method are applicable.

Next, the user inputs the print order data. It is carried out through selecting the expected option data on the data input screen by using a mouse or a keyboard. After the input of all print order data is accomplished, the computer 11 of the user 10 moves to a data transfer mode, then it is connected to the work station 13 of the photofinisher 12 and a print pre-order data is sent through the data communication.

The print pre-order data consists of the print option data, the expected delivery date designation data and data of image data size or data quantity. These data pieces are included in the print order data.

OFFICIAL

FAX RECEIVED

JUL 31 2003

GROUP 3600

MANOLIS et al.
Application No.: 09/450,804
Page 6

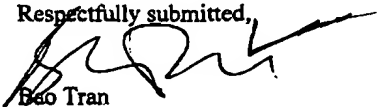
PATENT

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Bao Tran

Reg. 37,955

Tran & Associates

6768 Meadow Vista Court

San Jose, CA 95135

Tel 408-528-7490

Fax 408-528-1490